

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

QUALITY STANDARD TOPIC OVERVIEW

1 Quality standard title

Fertility problems

2 Introduction

2.1 *NICE quality standards*

NICE quality standards are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care.

The standards are derived from high-quality guidance, such as that from NICE or [accredited](#) by NICE. They are developed independently by NICE, in collaboration with healthcare professionals and public health and social care practitioners, their partners and service users. Information on priority areas, people's experience of using services, safety issues, equality and cost impact are considered during the development process.

NICE quality standards are central to supporting the Government's vision for a health and social care system that is focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for people who use services, as detailed in the [Health and Social Care Act \(2012\)](#).

The quality standard development process is described in detail on the [NICE website](#).

2.2 *This topic overview*

This topic overview describes core elements of the quality standard. These include the population and topic to be covered, key source guidance to be used to underpin potential quality statements, any related quality standards,

published current practice information and national or routine indicators and performance measures.

If the source guidance is not NICE guidance, it should meet the minimum quality criteria defined in NICE's [accreditation](#) programme.

3 This quality standard

The development of the quality standard will begin in January 2014 and is expected to take 10 months to complete.

3.1 *Population and topic to be covered*

This quality standard will cover the assessment and treatment of fertility problems in:

- People with explained or unexplained infertility.
- People who are preparing for cancer treatment who may wish to preserve their fertility.

3.2 *Key development sources (NICE and NICE-accredited sources)*

Primary source

- [Fertility](#). NICE clinical guideline 156 (2013).

Other sources that may be used

- [Dietary interventions and physical activity interventions for weight management before, during and after pregnancy](#). NICE public health guidance 27 (2010).

Key policy documents, reports and national audits

Relevant national policy documents, reports and audits will be used to inform the development of the quality standard.

- [Commissioning fertility services factsheet](#). NHS Commissioning Board (2013).

- [HFEA Code of practice](#). Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (2013).
- [HFEA Directions](#). Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (2009-2013).

3.3 Related NICE quality standards

Published

- [Heavy menstrual bleeding](#). NICE quality standard 47 (2013).
- [Multiple pregnancy](#). NICE quality standard 46 (2013).
- [Antenatal care](#). NICE quality standard 22 (2012).
- [Patient experience in adult NHS services](#). NICE quality standard 15 (2012).

In development

- [Children and young people with cancer](#). Publication expected February 2014.
- [Pain and bleeding in early pregnancy](#). Publication expected July 2014.
- [Eating disorders](#). Publication expected October 2014.

Future quality standards

This quality standard will be developed in the context of all quality standards referred to NICE, including the following quality standard scheduled for future development:

- Obesity (adults).
- Obesity: prevention and management in adults.

4 Existing indicators

None identified.

5 Further information

See the NICE website for more information about [NICE quality standards](#) and the [progress of this quality standard](#).